

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

9/17/73 EXT 20448

APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. KING (IN FO)

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 119611

R 172025Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL

EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING

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SEPTEMBER 17, 1973:

QUOTE: MR. KING: IN LINE WITH THE AGREEMENT THAT YOUR
ASSOCIATION WORKED OUT WITH SECRETARY ROGERS, WE ARE NOW

INAUGURATING WHAT I HOPE IS A REGULAR SERIES OF TREATY MEETING BRIEFINGS. IN THIS CASE, THE SUBJECT IS THE BHUTTO VISIT. WE HAVE ASKED ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO TO COME DOWN AND TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE VISIT.

IN QUESTIONS, I REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF INTERESTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO MR. SISCO ABOUT, OR RAISE WITH HIM, BUT WE ARE GOING TO LIMIT THIS BRIEFING TO THE SINGLE SUBJECT OF THE BHUTTO VISIT.

HIS REMARKS WILL BE ON BACKGROUND AND WITHOUT FURTHER ADO,

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO: LET ME JUST MAKE A FEW GENERAL OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE UPCOMING VISIT. LET ME SAY THAT WE VIEW THE DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH ASIA SINCE THE INDO-PAK WAR, AS BASICALLY A COUPLE OF YEARS OF REBUILDING.

I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL OF YOU THAT IN TERMS OF OUR OWN POLICY, WE HAVE NO ECONOMIC OR STRATEGIC INTEREST IN A PRIVILEGED POSITION AND, AT THE SAME TIME, I WANT TO STRESS THAT OUR POLICY IS NOT DIRECTED AT ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY IN THE AREA. OUR HOPE IS THAT WE CAN CONTRIBUTE, AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST, TO STABILITY. WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN ALTERING THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK IN THE SUBCONTINENT NOR DO WE HAVE AN INTEREST IN OTHER POWERS ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE THE FRAMEWORK.

WE BELIEVE THE BEST INSURANCE OF A STABLE REGION IS BASED ON A SECURE AND INDEPENDENT GROUP OF STATES; AND FOR THIS REASON, IN THE LAST TWO YEARS WE HAVE BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF TRYING TO HELP BANGLADESH IN ITS RELIEF EFFORT IN ORDER TO HELP IT TO STAND ON ITS OWN TWO FEET.

FOR THIS REASON, WE HAVE SOUGHT OVER THE LAST YEAR TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIA.

AND FOR THIS REASON, WE HAVE HAD A CONTINUING INTEREST IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THE INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN AND AN INTEREST IN HELPING IT CONSOLIDATE ITS INTEGRITY AND TO RESTORE ITS ECONOMIC VIABILITY.

I WOULD SAY ONE THING, NAMELY, THAT AS WE SEE THE AREA, WE SEE NEW FOUNDATIONS FOR STABILIZATION, EMERGING AND WE SEE THIS BROUGHT ABOUT PRIMARILY BY THE EFFORTS OF THE PARTIES THEMSELVES, WITH OUR ROLE GENERALLY HAVING BEEN A VERY QUIET ONE OF ENCOURAGING EACH OF THE PARTIES.

NOW AS FAR AS THE BHUTTO VISIT IS CONCERNED, THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT BY A PAKISTAN HEAD OF GOVERNMENT SINCE

1965. MOST OF YOU WILL RECALL BHUTTO WAS HERE FOR A BRIEF, INFORMAL VISIT. HE SAW THE PRESIDENT IN DECEMBER '71.

THE VISIT WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JULY AND WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S ILLNESS.

AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PRESIDENT TO RECIPROCATATE PAKISTAN'S HOSPITALITY. THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. NIXON WERE IN PAKISTAN IN JULY OF 1969, AND I THINK THE THING I WOULD UNDERSCORE IS THAT THE VISIT IS AN OBVIOUS DEMONSTRATION OF THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY TIES THAT EXIST BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES TODAY.

NOW WHAT WILL BE DISCUSSED? WHAT CAN WE ANTICIPATE WILL BE DISCUSSED OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS? THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT IS THE

FLOOD DISASTER. FLOODS, AS YOU KNOW, HAVE CAUSED UNPRECEDENTED LOSSES IN LIFE AND PROPERTY IN PUNJAB AND THE SIND PROVINCES. WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT THE TOTAL DAMAGE IS AS YET, BUT WE DO KNOW THAT THE LOSSES OF GRAIN STOCK IS VERY CONSIDERABLE, WHICH MEANS A LOSS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AS FAR AS PAKISTAN IS CONCERNED. THE DAMAGE TO THE COTTON CROP IS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.

LET ME SET DOWN VERY BRIEFLY, WHAT OUR RESPONSE HAS BEEN TO THIS DISASTER THUS FAR:

WE HAVE DISPATCHED 10 BOAT TEAMS AND 6 HELICOPTERS MANNED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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BY AMERICAN CREWS, FOR RELIEF AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

WE HAVE PROVIDED 4 C-141S FOR EMERGENCY FUEL AIRLIFT.

WE HAVE DISPATCHED A COMMUNICATIONS TEAM TO SURVEY AND ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN ON THE MEANS TO RESTORE INTERRUPTED COMMUNICATIONS.

WE HAVE SUPPLIED 50,000 POUNDS OF VEGETABLE SEEDS TO MEET THE SHORT TERM FOOD NEEDS FOR VILLAGERS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

THE SUPPLY OF SIX HELICOPTERS AND TWO C-47S AND INSECTICIDES FOR SPRAYING SOMETHING LIKE 600,000 ACRES OF RICE CROPS THAT ARE THREATENED WITH DESTRUCTION.

WE'VE SUPPLIED EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND WE HAVE ALLOCATED 100,000 TONS OF PL 480 WHEAT TO HELP OVERCOME THE FOOD GRAIN LOSSES.

IN TOTAL, OUR RESPONSE TO DATE AMOUNTS TO ROUGHLY ABOUT \$24 MILLION, AND THIS REPRESENTS, REALLY, A VERY SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE TOTAL INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO DATE.

THE PRESIDENT, QUITE RECENTLY, SENT A DEPUTY AID DIRECTOR, MAURICE WILLIAMS, TO PAKISTAN EARLY THIS MONTH AS HIS SPECIAL DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR. AND MR. WILLIAMS HAS MADE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION NEEDS. HE HAS MADE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WE ARE STUDYING AT THE PRESENT TIME AND THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL OBVIOUSLY BE A MATTER OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND MR. BHUTTO.

A SECOND TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WILL BE THE QUESTION OF LONG TERM ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. SINCE JANUARY 1972, THE UNITED STATES HAS PROVIDED MORE THAN \$300 MILLION WORTH OF

ASSISTANCE IN ALL FORMS.

WE WILL, OF COURSE, BE DISCUSSING THE CONTINUING LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF PAKISTAN AND WAYS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS OTHERS, CAN BE HELPFUL.

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I JUST WOULD REMIND YOU THAT IN TERMS OF OUR OWN BUDGET, AND OF COURSE THIS IS ALL SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVAL, WHAT WE HAVE TICKETED -- AND IT DOESN'T NECESSARILY FOLLOW THAT THIS IS WHAT WILL COME OUT OF THE CONGRESS, BUT WHAT WE HAVE IN THE BUDGET FOR PAKISTAN, IS ABOUT \$60 MILLION IN THE FORM OF DEVELOPMENT LOANS, AND ABOUT \$17 MILLION FOR THE INDUS WATER PROJECT AND PAKISTAN IS INTERESTED, OF COURSE, IN CONTINUING PL 480 -- BUT GIVEN THE LIMITATIONS IN THE RESOURCES, WE ARE NOT AT ALL CLEAR AS TO WHAT WE CAN DO ALONG THESE LINES. BUT THIS WILL BE DETERMINED IN THE LIGHT OF THE OVERALL RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE, AS WELL AS THE OTHER PRIORITIES ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS.

THAT'S BASICALLY, THE ESSENCE OF WHAT I THINK WILL BE FOCUSED ON BY WAY OF LONG TERM ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

A THIRD SUBJECT, WILL BE THE QUESTION OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH ASIA, AND HERE, I THINK THAT THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE NATIONS OF SOUTH ASIA -- INCLUDING THE RECENT AGREEMENT REACHED IN NEW DELHI ON AUGUST 28TH, AS IT RELATES TO THE POWS -- THE REPATRIATION OF THE DETAINEES FROM THE 1970 WAR.

LET ME JUST SAY TO YOU, THAT WE THINK THAT THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE BY THE PARTIES, IN THE AFTERMATH OF A VERY BITTER INDO-PAK WAR, HAS BEEN VERY REMARKABLE WHEN

YOU LOOK BACK IN THE FIRST INSTANCE -- AN AGREEMENT ON
WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES -- AND NOW A VERY SIGNIFICANT AND A
VERY SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT, AS IT RELATES TO THE DETAINEES.

AND WITHIN THE BROAD CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH
ASIA, THE TALKS CAN BE EXPECTED TO FOCUS ALSO ON THE
QUESTION OF PAKISTAN'S SECURITY CONCERNS -- IN THE CON-
TEXT OF THE CHANGING WORLD SITUATION INCLUDING PROGRESS
TOWARD REDUCTION OF TENSIONS IN SOUTH ASIA, AND THE
MOVEMENT TOWARD DETENTE IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND THE
OPENING OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA.

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I WOULD MAKE TWO OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

WE THINK THAT ECONOMIC PROGRESS SINCE THE END OF THE 1971
WAR, INCLUDING A GOOD GROWTH IN GNP IN PAKISTAN, HAS BEEN

A VERY POSITIVE THING. WE HAVE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT
THE COUNTRY HAS MOVED AHEAD ECONOMICALLY. BUT OBVIOUSLY,
THIS DISASTER OF RECENT WEEKS REPRESENTS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL
SETBACK.

WE THINK THAT AS FAR AS PAKISTAN IS CONCERNED, THAT THE
LONG TERM ECONOMIC PROSPECTS ARE PROMISING, EVEN THOUGH
WE DO FACE THE SHORT TERM PROBLEMS AS THEY RELATE TO
FLOOD DISASTER.

WE THINK IT'S RATHER REMARKABLE, ALSO, THAT THE POLITICAL
PROGRESS IS REFLECTED IN REACHING THE KIND OF NATIONAL
CONSENSUS THAT IS REFLECTED IN THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW
CONSTITUTION BY PAKISTAN IN AUGUST OF 1973 -- AND WITH THE
SUPPORT OF THE OPPOSITION, I MIGHT ADD.

THE FACT OF THE MATTER THAT BHUTTO IS HERE AS THE PRIME
MINISTER, AND HE DOES LOOK BACK OVER PAKISTAN'S HISTORY --
I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY HE'S THE FIRST ONE THAT COMES AS
AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE.

AND I THINK ON THE WHOLE, WE FEEL THAT THE LAST TWO YEARS
IN PAKISTAN DO REFLECT A RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE AND A
CERTAIN AMOUNT OF COHESION IN THE COUNTRY.

I'LL TRY TO TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS NOW.

Q. ONE OF THE THINGS YOU DIDN'T MENTION WAS THE U.S.
EMBARGO ON ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN. I WONDER IF YOU INTEND
TO REMAIN FIRM ON OUR PAST POLICY ON THAT?

A. OBVIOUSLY, THE QUESTION OF ARMS IS GOING TO BE DIS-

CUSSED.

WE ADOPTED A NEW POLICY, I THINK IT WAS ROUGHLY ABOUT LAST
MARCH. I COULD ONLY SAY TO YOU, REALLY WHAT DR. KISSINGER
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HAD TO SAY IN HIS CONFIRMATION HEARINGS AND THE POLICY IS
THERE, YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS. WE DO NOT SUPPLY ANY LETHAL
ARMS, WE ARE SUPPLYING SPARE PARTS FOR PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED
ARMS, AND WE DO SUPPLY NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT.

DR. KISSINGER HAS SAID THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE A PRINCIPAL
ARMS SUPPLIER IN THE AREA, AND I WOULD JUST STAND ON THE
FACT THAT THE SECRETARY DESIGNATE RECONFIRMED THAT
PARTICULAR POLICY IN THE CONTEXT OF --

Q. WELL WHAT ABOUT BHUTTO'S INTEREST? WILL HE PRESS FOR
IT, EVEN SO?

A. WELL, I THINK -- AS I SAY THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT
BHUTTO IS GOING TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF ARMS BUT I THINK
IT'S EQUALLY CLEAR THAT OUR POLICY IS CLEAR.

Q. WHAT IS THE POLICY ON THE SUPPLY OF ARMS TO THIRD
COUNTRIES -- ARMS THAT MAY HAVE ORIGINATED WITH THE U.S.--
I'M THINKING THERE COULD BE A RERUN HERE.

A. YES. WELL, THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS:

UNDER OUR LAWS ANY THIRD PARTY

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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